

**Subject:** "Kurdistan in America" - The latest podcast from the KRG US Representation

**From:** Kurdistan Regional Government - USA <us@gov.krd>

**To:** farakrg@gmail.com

**Date Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2021 4:57:53 PM GMT-04:00

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**Kurdistan Regional Government  
Representation in the United States  
Washington D.C.**

Welcome to the "Kurdistan in America" Podcast



## Season 2 Episode 6 - Interview with Ms. Nadine Maenza

JUNE 25, 2021

KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES

SEASON:

2

EPISODE: 6



Kurdistan in America

Interview with Ms. Nadine Maenza



03:45 | 33:24

This month, the Kurdistan in America podcast is honored to host Ms. Nadine Maenza as our guest. Ms. Maenza currently serves as the Chair of the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), an independent, bipartisan U.S. federal government commission created by the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad.

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June was a busy month on the diplomatic front for the Kurdistan Region after a lull in high-level international visits due to the pandemic.

The month began with visits by Prime Minister Masrour Barzani to Belgium, Flanders, and Greece where he met with Prime Minister Alexander De Croo (Belgium), Minister-President Jan Jambon (Flanders), and Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis (Greece). They discussed bolstering bilateral ties, the joint fight against ISIS, and ways to strengthen trade and investment.

President Nechirvan Barzani visited the United Arab Emirates to meet Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. Sheikh Al Nahyan reiterated his country's support to the Kurdistan Region and Iraq and expressed the UAE's readiness to develop bilateral relations, while President Barzani congratulated the

The KRG is committed to the enduring defeat of ISIS and has always stood against terrorism and extremism. We appreciate the support of the United States and other Coalition partners.

A growing security concern in Kurdistan and Iraq as a whole is the use of drones by militias to attack Kurdish targets as well as Coalition forces and their facilities. The US and all Coalition forces are in Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi government and to assist Iraqi forces, including the peshmerga, in the fight against ISIS. The militias' attempts to destabilize Kurdistan will be resisted by all means possible and we ask our friends in Iraq and internationally to stand by the people of Kurdistan.

### Washington

Rob Waller is ending his tenure as US Consul General Erbil. The Kurdistan Region thanks Mr. Waller for his service and dedication to the US-Kurdistan partnership. Robert Palladino, formerly chief-of-staff of the US Deputy Secretary of State, will take up the post of Consul General. I met with Mr. Palladino to congratulate him, offer my assistance, and wish him success in Kurdistan.

We also offer congratulations to Nadine Maenza who has been appointed Chair of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. Ms. Maenza, who was previously a commissioner at USCIRF, is no stranger to Kurdistan and Iraq and has visited the region many

Sheikh on the UAE's election to the United Nations Security Council in 2022-2023.

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You can find the [link to the podcast](#) and a wide range of news in the newsletter below.

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Representative to the United States  
Kurdistan Regional Government



### KRG Representative meets with the incoming Consul General to Kurdistan

Representative Bayan Sami Abul Rahman and Robert Palladino, the incoming U.S. Consul General in Erbil, had a warm and productive meeting...

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Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani received Mr. John Godfrey, Acting Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Acting Special Envoy for the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, and his accompanying...

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### **President Barzani meets with King Abdulla II of Jordan**

The King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, King Abdulla II, received the President of the Kurdistan Region Nechirvan Barzani at Al-Husseiniya Palace on Wednesday evening. At the meeting, attended by their...

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### **President Barzani closely following the Yazidi Sharya Camp**

Kurdistan Region President Nechirvan Barzani spoke to the Governor of Dohuk, Mr. Ali Tatar, on Friday to closely follow up the situation in the Sharya Camp where a large fire broke out earlier today causing...

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### **President Barzani meets with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi**

The President of the Kurdistan Region Nechirvan Barzani met with His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the United Arab...

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### **Kurdistan Region President visits political parties**

Continuing his meetings with political leaders in the Kurdistan Region, President Nechirvan Barzani visited the headquarters of three political parties in Erbil on Tuesday, including the Kurdistan Workers...

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### **PM Masrour Barzani meets with US ambassador to Iraq**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani met with US ambassador to Iraq Mathew Tueller on Monday to review the latest developments in Iraq and the region. Both sides emphasized the importance of ...

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### **PM Barzani discusses ISIS resurgence with special US envoy**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani met with a delegation on Wednesday led by John Godfrey, the acting U.S. special envoy for the Global Coalition against ISIS. Prime Minister Barzani...

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### **PM Masrour Barzani meets with Belgian counterpart**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani met with Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo on Wednesday to discuss bilateral relations and security obstacles facing the Kurdistan Region. Prime Minister Barzani...

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### **PM Masrour Barzani meets with his Greek counterpart**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Friday met with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis in Athens to discuss bilateral ties and developments in the region. Prime Minister Barzani addressed the long-standing ...

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### **PM Masrour Barzani meets with his Flanders counterpart**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani met with Flemish Minister-President Jan Jambon on Wednesday to discuss ties between the Kurdistan Region and Flanders. Prime Minister Barzani addressed the ninth cabinet's...

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### **PM Barzani meets with deputy executive director of UNFPA**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Monday met with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Deputy Executive Director, Ib Petersen, to discuss population development in the region. Prime...

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### **New agricultural project to create more than 500 jobs**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Thursday laid the foundation stone of a potato production factory in Duhok, set to provide 500 jobs and make use of local potato product.

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### **Council of Ministers discusses 2021 financial report**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Wednesday led a meeting in which the Council of Ministers discussed this year's financial data. Finance Minister Awat Sheikh Janab addressed the...

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### **DPM discusses Economic Diversification with Officials**

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani on Tuesday met with the customs offices directors and the heads of the trade banks to discuss diversifying sources of income. The Deputy Prime...

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### **DPM discusses private sector investments with US delegation**

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani today met with a US delegation headed by the US Consul General in Erbil, Rob Waller, to discuss economic growth through the development of the...

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### **Deputy Prime Minister Talabani launched KRG Service Portal**

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani today chaired a cabinet meeting to discuss the latest efforts to reduce bureaucratic obstacles and streamline the delivery of public services in...

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### **KRG launches social media campaign to promote transparency**

The Department of Media and Information is responsible for ensuring effective communication about the activities of the Kurdistan Regional Government to

citizens, local and international media, and other stakeholders.

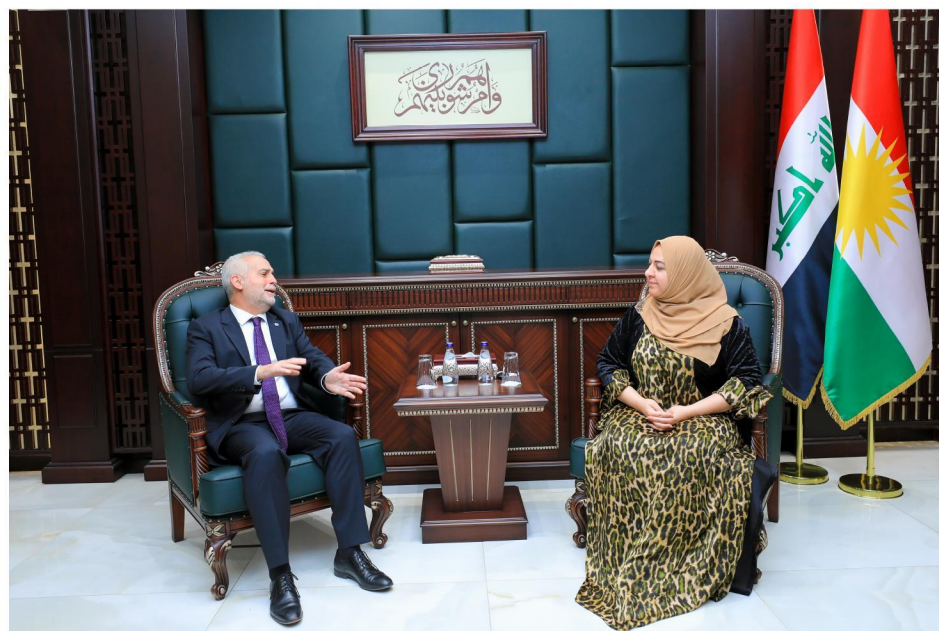
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### **Speaker Rewaz Faiq meets with US Consul General Waller**

Kurdistan Parliament Speaker Dr. Rewaz Faiq on 15 June met with the US Consul General in Kurdistan Region Mr. Rob Waller, who visited at the Speaker's request. Several MPs took part in the meeting: Dr. Bizhar Kochar (KDP), the ...

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### **Speaker Faiq meets with Head of UNAMI regional office**

Kurdistan Parliament Speaker Dr. Rewaz Faiq on 22 June met with Mr. Ricardo Rodriguez, the Head of UNAMI's regional office in Erbil. The latest political developments and the next Iraqi elections were discussed.

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### **KP Legislative Committee meets with Yazda and UNITAD**

Kurdistan Parliament's Legislative Committee on 16 June held a meeting with UNITAD and Yazda, a multi-national Yazidi NGO, to discuss the Bill on the Special Court in Kurdistan Region - Iraq for Crimes by ISIS. Ms. Natia...

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### **Speaker Rewaz Faiq meets with head of Chaldean League**

Kurdistan Parliament Speaker Dr. Rewaz Faiq on 23 June met with Mr. Safa Sabah Hindi, the head of the Chaldean League, and his staff. MP Janan Jabar Boya (National Union Coalition) participated in the meeting.

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### **Joint committee discuss findings of visits to border areas**

The Parliament joint committee formed to look into the impact of the Turkey-PKK conflict on the borders of Duhok province, in Zakho and Amedi districts, met to discuss their findings and draft their report.

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## Kurdistan in the Media



### KRG authorities warn of rising drug use in Kurdistan Region

According to the Kurdistan Region's Anti-Narcotics Directorate, more than 80 kilograms of drugs have been seized by authorities at the Haji Omaran border crossing with Iran so far this year. Additionally, in 2020, 550 kilograms of drugs were seized in the Kurdistan Region, and 1,133 drug dealers were arrested.



### Col. Williams talks about unification of Kurdistan's Peshmerga forces

Colonel David Williams, the Director of the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) Kurdistan Coordination Center (KCC), speaks with Kurdistan 24 TV about the unification of the Kurdistan Region's Peshmerga forces.



### Human rights organization monitors destruction of border villages

The Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) visited villages in Duhok province's border areas on Sunday to monitor the destruction (of) caused by (Turkish) Turkey's cross-border incursions. The organization focuses on violence-reduction and human rights in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region. They collect data about the area and deliver it to international organizations.



### Villagers say evacuated homes in Duhok are looted, damaged

Six months after they fled their homes in northern Duhok because of clashes between the Turkish army and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a group of villagers returned and found their homes had been looted, their belongings stolen or destroyed.

### **Turkish Operation Increases Conflict Among Kurds in Iraq**

In recent weeks, Turkey has intensified its military operation against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) bases in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, leading...

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### **Iraqi PM: Opposition to sending Kurdistan's budget is campaign ploy**

Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi described opposition to sending the Kurdistan Region's share of the budget as a campaign strategy, reiterating...

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### **US condemns drone attack on Erbil in Kurdistan Region, Iraq**

The attack took place the same day that pro-Iranian militias, called Popular Mobilization Units, held a parade showing off their weapons in Baghdad...

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### **Joe Reeder: Kurdistan Region is 'red line' for the US**

The Kurdistan Region is a "red line" for the United States, Joe Reeder, former Undersecretary of the Army, told Kurdistan 24 last week...

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### **Iraq rejects Kurdish attempts to establish court for ISIS crimes**

Iraq's Federal Supreme Court has rejected calls to establish a criminal court in Erbil to try Islamic State (ISIS) suspects...

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### **Potato harvest has started in Iraq and Kurdistan region**

As the potato harvest in Iraq has started, staff of the Beirut Erbil Potato Processing Company - known for their potato chip brands Mito and Mr. Krisper...

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### **The exodus of Mustafa Barzani and his companions to the Soviet Union kept Kurdish freedom alive**

Seventy-four years ago General Mustafa Barzani and his companions began what may be the most important march in the struggle for Kurdish freedom...

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### **UAE Red Crescent rolls out second dose of COVID vaccine to refugees in Kurdistan Region**

The United Arab Emirates Red Crescent has begun administering the second dose of COVID-19 vaccines to displaced Iraqis and refugees in the Kurdistan...

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### **UN-Habitat and KRG officials meet to discuss urban development initiatives**

UN-Habitat's Executive Director (ED), Maimunah Mohd Sharif, met with H.E. Mr. Sasan Awni, Minister of Municipalities and Tourism of

### **Turkish air strike kills at least three in refugee camp in Iraq**

A Turkish air strike killed at least three people on Saturday at a camp for displaced people in northern Iraq, said Rashad Kelali, a Patriotic Union...



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### Turkey accused of 'stealing' trees in Iraqi Kurdistan logging campaign

Alleged deforestation campaign by Turkish army in Iraqi Kurdistan's border areas has caused public uproar and raised concern the environment is...

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### A Kurdish winemaker's journey from Manus Island to the Yarra Valley

In his first day as a free man, Farhad Bandesh poured himself a glass of wine. It was 11 December 2020, his 40th birthday, and after seven-and-a-half...

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### Chicago's Documentary Film Festival screens a movie about Yezidis

The Chicago Documentary Film Festival this month screened Sabaya, a documentary about the rescue of Yezidi women held by ISIS in a camp in Syria...

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### Kurdistan Region student wins WHO COVID-19 art competition

The World Health Organization (WHO) office in Iraq on Monday announced that a student from Sulaimani province in the Kurdistan Region won the international...

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### **PM Masrour Barzani meets with US ambassador to Iraq**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani met with US ambassador to Iraq Mathew Tueller on Monday to review the latest developments in Iraq and the region. Both sides emphasized the importance of ...

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### **PM Barzani discusses ISIS resurgence with special US envoy**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani met with a delegation on Wednesday led by John Godfrey, the acting U.S. special envoy for the Global Coalition against ISIS. Prime Minister Barzani...

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### **PM Masrour Barzani meets with Belgian counterpart**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani met with Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo on Wednesday to discuss bilateral relations and security obstacles facing the Kurdistan Region. Prime Minister Barzani...

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### **PM Masrour Barzani meets with his Greek counterpart**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Friday met with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis in Athens to discuss bilateral ties and developments in the region. Prime Minister Barzani addressed the long-standing ...

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### **PM Masrour Barzani meets with his Flanders counterpart**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani met with Flemish Minister-President Jan Jambon on Wednesday to discuss ties between the Kurdistan Region and Flanders. Prime Minister Barzani addressed the ninth cabinet's...

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### **PM Barzani meets with deputy executive director of UNFPA**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Monday met with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Deputy Executive Director, Ib Petersen, to discuss population development in the region. Prime...

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### **New agricultural project to create more than 500 jobs**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Thursday laid the foundation stone of a potato production factory in Duhok, set to provide 500 jobs and make use of local potato product.

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### **Council of Ministers discusses 2021 financial report**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Wednesday led a meeting in which the Council of Ministers discussed this year's financial data. Finance Minister Awat Sheikh Janab addressed the...

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### **DPM discusses Economic Diversification with Officials**

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani on Tuesday met with the customs offices directors and the heads of the trade banks to discuss diversifying sources of income. The Deputy Prime...

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### **DPM discusses private sector investments with US delegation**

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani today met with a US delegation headed by the US Consul General in Erbil, Rob Waller, to discuss economic growth through the development of the...

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### **Deputy Prime Minister Talabani launched KRG Service Portal**

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani today chaired a cabinet meeting to discuss the latest efforts to reduce bureaucratic obstacles and streamline the delivery of public services in...

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### **KRG launches social media campaign to promote transparency**

The Department of Media and Information is responsible for ensuring effective communication about the activities of the Kurdistan Regional Government to

citizens, local and international media, and other stakeholders.

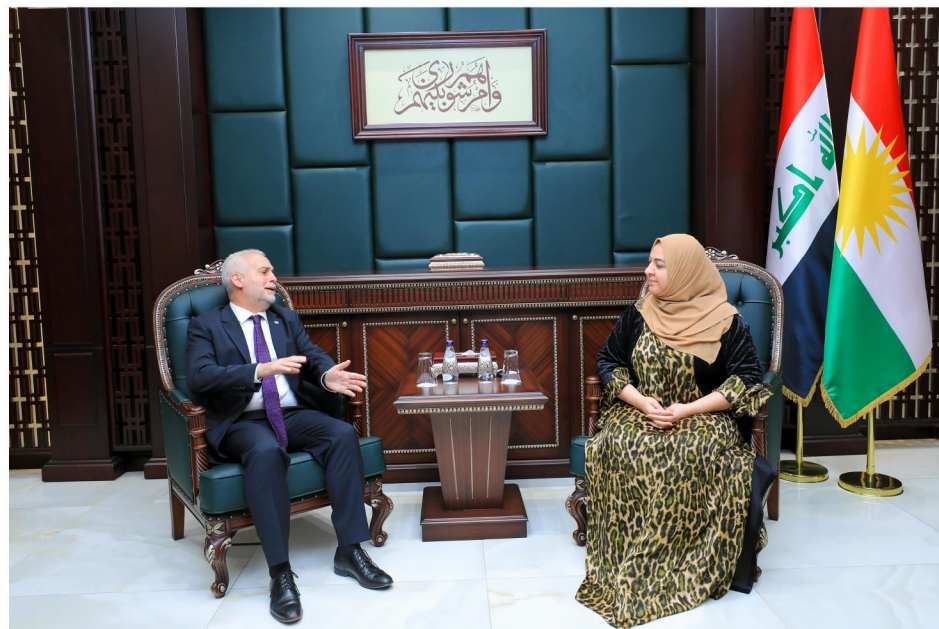
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### **Speaker Rewaz Faiq meets with US Consul General Waller**

Kurdistan Parliament Speaker Dr. Rewaz Faiq on 15 June met with the US Consul General in Kurdistan Region Mr. Rob Waller, who visited at the Speaker's request. Several MPs took part in the meeting: Dr. Bizhar Kochar (KDP), the ...

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### **Speaker Faiq meets with Head of UNAMI regional office**

Kurdistan Parliament Speaker Dr. Rewaz Faiq on 22 June met with Mr. Ricardo Rodriguez, the Head of UNAMI's regional office in Erbil. The latest political developments and the next Iraqi elections were discussed.

[Read more](#)

[www.parliament.krd](http://www.parliament.krd)



### **KP Legislative Committee meets with Yazda and UNITAD**

Kurdistan Parliament's Legislative Committee on 16 June held a meeting with UNITAD and Yazda, a multi-national Yazidi NGO, to discuss the Bill on the Special Court in Kurdistan Region - Iraq for Crimes by ISIS. Ms. Natia...

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### **Speaker Rewaz Faiq meets with head of Chaldean League**

Kurdistan Parliament Speaker Dr. Rewaz Faiq on 23 June met with Mr. Safa Sabah Hindi, the head of the Chaldean League, and his staff. MP Janan Jabar Boya (National Union Coalition) participated in the meeting.

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### **Joint committee discuss findings of visits to border areas**

The Parliament joint committee formed to look into the impact of the Turkey-PKK conflict on the borders of Duhok province, in Zakho and Amedi districts, met to discuss their findings and draft their report.

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## Kurdistan in the Media



### KRG authorities warn of rising drug use in Kurdistan Region

According to the Kurdistan Region's Anti-Narcotics Directorate, more than 80 kilograms of drugs have been seized by authorities at the Haji Omaran border crossing with Iran so far this year. Additionally, in 2020, 550 kilograms of drugs were seized in the Kurdistan Region, and 1,133 drug dealers were arrested.



### Col. Williams talks about unification of Kurdistan's Peshmerga forces

Colonel David Williams, the Director of the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) Kurdistan Coordination Center (KCC), speaks with Kurdistan 24 TV about the unification of the Kurdistan Region's Peshmerga forces.



### Human rights organization monitors destruction of border villages

The Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) visited villages in Duhok province's border areas on Sunday to monitor the destruction (of) caused by (Turkish) Turkey's cross-border incursions. The organization focuses on violence-reduction and human rights in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region. They collect data about the area and deliver it to international organizations.



### Villagers say evacuated homes in Duhok are looted, damaged

Six months after they fled their homes in northern Duhok because of clashes between the Turkish army and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a group of villagers returned and found their homes had been looted, their belongings stolen or destroyed.

### **Turkish Operation Increases Conflict Among Kurds in Iraq**

In recent weeks, Turkey has intensified its military operation against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) bases in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, leading...

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### **Iraqi PM: Opposition to sending Kurdistan's budget is campaign ploy**

Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi described opposition to sending the Kurdistan Region's share of the budget as a campaign strategy, reiterating...

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### **US condemns drone attack on Erbil in Kurdistan Region, Iraq**

The attack took place the same day that pro-Iranian militias, called Popular Mobilization Units, held a parade showing off their weapons in Baghdad...

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### **Joe Reeder: Kurdistan Region is 'red line' for the US**

The Kurdistan Region is a "red line" for the United States, Joe Reeder, former Undersecretary of the Army, told Kurdistan 24 last week...

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### **Iraq rejects Kurdish attempts to establish court for ISIS crimes**

Iraq's Federal Supreme Court has rejected calls to establish a criminal court in Erbil to try Islamic State (ISIS) suspects...

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### **Potato harvest has started in Iraq and Kurdistan region**

As the potato harvest in Iraq has started, staff of the Beirut Erbil Potato Processing Company - known for their potato chip brands Mito and Mr. Krisper...

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### **The exodus of Mustafa Barzani and his companions to the Soviet Union kept Kurdish freedom alive**

Seventy-four years ago General Mustafa Barzani and his companions began what may be the most important march in the struggle for Kurdish freedom...

[Read more](#)

### **UAE Red Crescent rolls out second dose of COVID vaccine to refugees in Kurdistan Region**

The United Arab Emirates Red Crescent has begun administering the second dose of COVID-19 vaccines to displaced Iraqis and refugees in the Kurdistan...

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### **UN-Habitat and KRG officials meet to discuss urban development initiatives**

UN-Habitat's Executive Director (ED), Maimunah Mohd Sharif, met with H.E. Mr. Sasan Awni, Minister of Municipalities and Tourism of

### **Turkish air strike kills at least three in refugee camp in Iraq**

A Turkish air strike killed at least three people on Saturday at a camp for displaced people in northern Iraq, said Rashad Kelali, a Patriotic Union...



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### Turkey accused of 'stealing' trees in Iraqi Kurdistan logging campaign

Alleged deforestation campaign by Turkish army in Iraqi Kurdistan's border areas has caused public uproar and raised concern the environment is...

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### A Kurdish winemaker's journey from Manus Island to the Yarra Valley

n his first day as a free man, Farhad Bandesh poured himself a glass of wine. It was 11 December 2020, his 40th birthday, and after seven-and-a-half...

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### Chicago's Documentary Film Festival screens a movie about Yezidis

The Chicago Documentary Film Festival this month screened Sabaya, a documentary about the rescue of Yezidi women held by ISIS in a camp in Syria...

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### Kurdistan Region student wins WHO COVID-19 art competition

The World Health Organization (WHO) office in Iraq on Monday announced that a student from Sulaimani province in the Kurdistan Region won the international...

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### In Memoriam Dr. Najmaldin Karim (1949-2020)



***Dr. Najmaldin Karim remembered: 'Neurosurgeon from Maryland' credited with bringing peace and normalcy to Kirkuk; played key role in starting US-Kurdish dialogue***

Kurdistan24.net

[By: Wladimir van Wilgenburg](#) 2020/11/01

Dr. Najmaldin Karim, former Governor of Kirkuk—where he was born and raised—and a tireless advocate for Kurdish rights passed away peacefully on Friday in the United States after suffering a stroke.

[Read obituary](#)

**What does the US-Iraq strategic dialogue mean for Iraq, especially the Kurdistan Region?**





## What does the US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue Mean for Iraq, Especially the Kurdistan Region? Monday July 26 @12:00pm EST



### Najmaldin Karim Webinar Series Webinar Date: Monday, July 26, 2021 Time: 12:00 PM EST / 07:00 PM Erbil

On July 23, the United States and Iraq are set to hold the fourth round of the “strategic dialogue.” The talks address security, economic, humanitarian and political relationships between the two countries but crucially, the future of the United States presence in Iraq and security cooperation. Since 2003 the United States has been under pressure and faced hostility from the Iranian-backed militias attacking them. However, after the physical defeat of the Islamic States (Da’esh) in Iraq and the increase in the militias’ power and presence, attacks have dramatically increased against Iraqi bases housing US and other Coalition troops, as well as the American embassy. The militias have increased their attacks on US and other Coalition forces in the Kurdistan Region in the past months, trying to disrupt the safest environment for the western envoys since 1991. Due to existential threats and regional ambitions, the Kurdish parties agree on the need for a portion of the US forces to remain in Iraq generally and in Kurdistan in particular.

What benefit will the US-Iraq strategic dialogue have in the long-term? Under what mission and how safely can the US stay in Iraq? What are ways to contain these militias? Can the Kurdistan Region remain as safe and stable as before for the US and other western envoys and troops? What are the lessons learned from the US withdrawal from Afghanistan? Does the US have more or less political leverage over Iraq? These and many more questions will be answered by our distinguished speakers:

[Bayan Sami Abdulrahman](#)– Kurdistan Regional Government Representative to the United States

[Michael Knights](#)– Senior Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy

[Kamaran Palani](#)– Associate Fellow at Al Sharq Strategic Research Sharq Strategic Research

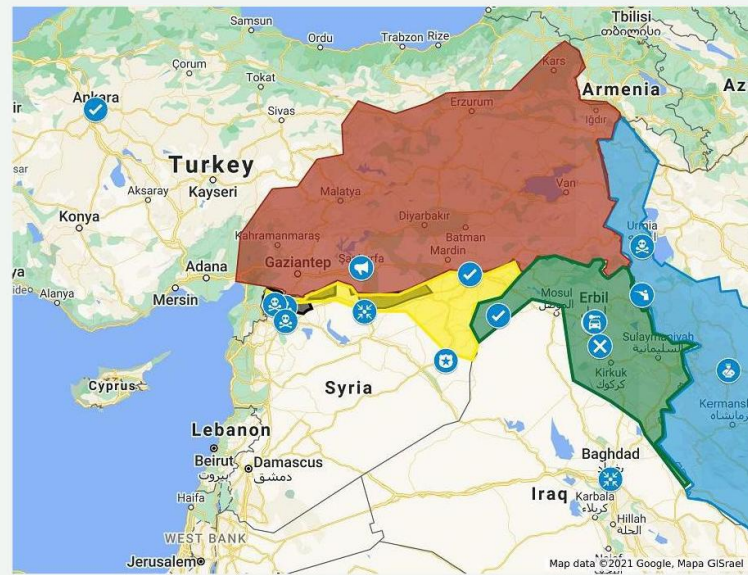
[Sierwan Karim](#)– President, Washington Kurdish Institute

**Webinar Registration**



## Kurdistan's Weekly Brief, July 20, 2021

***A weekly brief of events occurred in the Kurdistan regions of Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey.***



**Interactive Map**

### Iraq

- Security forces in Erbil released a video of five ISIS (Da'esh) terrorists admitting plans to target Eid al Adha celebrations in the city with suicide attacks. At the same time, the Kurdistan Region Security Council claimed Da'esh terrorists were planning to target locations frequented by foreigners.
- The US-led coalition supplied the Peshmerga with additional [tanker trucks and logistical equipment](#) last week. Furthermore, the Ministry of Peshmerga (MOP) announced [the formation](#) of two joint brigades consisting of Iraqi and Peshmerga personnel to address the ongoing lack of security in the "Disputed Territories." Deputy Ministry of Peshmerga Sarbast Lazgin said negotiations are now underway to arm and fund the new brigades.
- Another round of the US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue is set to take place in Washington on Friday, July 23. Prime Minister Mustafa al Kadhimi [will head a delegation](#) of Iraqi and Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) officials that will meet with US President Joe Biden to discuss the strategic partnership between the US and Iraq and other issues of mutual concern.
- Turkey's ambassador to Iraq, Ali Riza Gunay, met with the Turkish-backed Turkmen Front in Kirkuk on July 13. Local sources claimed Gunay discussed several internal issues facing the Turkmen Front, including the Sunni-Shia divide. Furthermore, several Turkmen Front members displayed a Turkish flag and greeted Gunay with the [hand gesture](#) of the far-right [Grey Wolves organization](#), which angered locals but has not elicited a government response so far.
- On July 15, [the Belgian Federal Parliament voted unanimously](#) to recognize Da'esh's mass killing and enslavement of Yazidis in 2014 as genocide. Dutch lawmakers approved a similar measure on July 6, and several other states, including the US and Iraq, have recognized the Yazidi genocide, offered humanitarian assistance to



survivors, and aided efforts to find those who remain missing.

## Syria

- Turkey and its Islamist proxies launched several indirect fire attacks on Kurdish-controlled areas near Tal Rifa'at and Aleppo Governorate's Tal Muthiq. The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said the shelling [injured five civilians](#), including a child, and claimed Turkey arrested ten Kurdish civilians in the Turkish-occupied towns of Afrin and Sari Kani (Tal Abyad). Moreover, Turkey limited the Euphrates River's flow into northeastern Syria for the fifth month in a row as part of an ongoing policy that has caused severe drought, electricity shortages, and significant damage to local agriculture.
- French President Emmanuel Macron received a delegation from the Kurdish-led Autonomous Administration of North and East of Syria (AANES) and [reaffirmed](#) "the need to continue work in favor of the political stabilization of northeastern Syria and inclusive governance." The AANES delegation included Syrian Democratic Council (SDC) head Ilham Ahmad, Civil Council of Deir Ez Zor director Ghassan Youssef, and AANES Executive Council Co-chair Berivan Khaled.
- SDF General Commander Mazloun Abdi called upon the international community to "investigate Turkish and militia crimes in Afrin and stop crimes against humanity." [Abdi's remarks](#) came in response to Turkey's exhumation of a cemetery where Kurdish fighters killed during the invasion of Afrin were buried and Turkish claims the Kurds were responsible for the deaths of those found in ["mass graves."](#)
- Tens of thousands of Kurds celebrated the ninth anniversary of the establishment of AANES on July 12 by launching a social media campaign called [#Status4NorthAndEastSyria](#). Among other things, the campaign honored veterans of the campaigns against Da'esh and called for international recognition of AANES.
- The Afrin Human Rights Organization claimed Assad regime officials tortured a Kurdish man named Azad Khalil to death in Aleppo. Khalil was arrested two months ago, and dozens of Kurds have been arrested for suspected pro-Kurdish sentiments that are described by the Syrian regime as "nationalist affiliation."
- The SDF arrested several Da'esh terrorists in Deir Ez Zor Governorate's Busayrah and al Suwar towns and rolled up a cell responsible for [smuggling Da'esh relatives](#) from al Hawl camp into Turkey. At the same time, 82 more families from al Hawl were returned to their homes [in Ragga](#) as part of ongoing reconciliation efforts between the [AANES and Arab tribes](#) in northeastern Syria.

## Turkey

- On Wednesday, an attack on the People's Democratic Party (HDP) office in Muğla caused property damage. Turkish police eventually detained the attacker, who perpetrated a similar attack on the HDP in 2018. Wednesday's incident is the latest in a string of assaults on the HDP that include a June 17 attack on an HDP office [in Izmir](#) that killed a Kurdish woman named Deniz Poyraz.
- The HDP launched a series of rallies known as the "Defence Campaign" as part of ongoing efforts to preserve its existence as a political entity after the Constitutional Court of Turkey accepted the Turkish government's case seeking closure of the party. Simultaneously, HDP Co-chair Pervin Buldan released a statement that ruled out the possibility of negotiations with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) in



saying, “Not even a single Kurd wants to sit at the table with the AKP amid the atrocities committed by the AKP, the detention and arrest of our mayors, our arrested deputies in prisons, and the lawsuits filed against us.” On another note, HDP lawmaker Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu had his parliamentary status restored after the Constitutional Court ruled [the Turkish government's case](#) against him violated Gergerlioğlu’s “right to freedom of expression” and “right to contest in elections and engage in political activities.”

#### Iran

- The [Cooperation Center for Iranian Kurdistan's Political Parties \(CCIKP\)](#) released a statement in support of anti-government protests that have been ongoing in Khuzestan Province since July 15. The protests, most of which occur in the Arab-majority city of Ahvaz, began when a newly constructed dam caused severe water shortages. Thus far, the Iranian regime has responded by [killing several](#) protestors and [arresting dozens](#) more. [The CCIKP](#) referred to the use of force against civilians as “the Iranian government’s usual policy, against the rightful protests and demands of the people,” while the drought caused by the dam’s construction has damaged agricultural land in several provinces, including Kurdish ones, and is perceived as part of Iranian authorities’ ongoing campaign of discrimination against minorities.
- Iranian security forces arrested a Kurdish man and member of the Sunni Kurdish “Quran school” named Farid Nasqashbandi in Sanandaj. Iranian authorities also arrested four Kurds in Urmia identified as Shirzad Qassimlu, Mamlie Abdi, Khorsid Ibrahimi, and Jalal Ibrahimi. Concurrently, the Hengaw Organization for Human Rights reported Iranian intelligence officers (Ettela’at) tortured a Kurdish man named Ahmed Rahmanian to death after his arrest on July 13.
- Iranian authorities injured four more Kurdish border porters (Kolbars) last week, including Khalil Solimani in Nowsud and Mosa Zibapour, Zahir Tazahum, and Saed Tiso in Piranshahr. Despite the risks associated with becoming a Kolbar, however, poor living conditions and high unemployment rates in Iran’s Kurdish region are encouraging more Kurds to adopt the profession.

### Articles of Interest

#### Iran

- [Five kolbars beaten by Iranian border guards: rights group](#)
- [Protests rock restive Iran province over water shortages](#)
- [Iran protests: One killed in water crisis demonstration](#)
- [FBI foils Iranian plot to kidnap journalist](#)

#### Syria

- [Syrian Kurds decry Turkish claims of mass grave in Afrin](#)
- [‘Now I’ve a purpose’: why more](#)

#### Iraq

- [ISIS claims responsibility for deadly Baghdad suicide bombing](#)
- [‘I have no future here:’ Yazidis struggle to rebuild their lives despite ISIS retreat](#)
- [Erbil’s oldest Kurdish school serves as education museum](#)
- [Opinion: How the United States has proven to be a terrible ally](#)

#### Turkey

- [Has Turkey changed its anti-Islamic State strategy?](#)
- [Erdogan's game plan for next](#)

[Kurdish women are choosing to fight](#)

- [Activists demand recognition for Kurdish, North and East Syria - analysis](#)
- [The story behind the alleged mass grave Turkey found in Afrin](#)

[election involves Kurdish vote](#)

- [Has Erdogan achieved his goal to build his 'New Turkey'?](#)
- [Police batter 8 months pregnant woman in Şırnak](#)
- ['Tell those stories': Kurds call for torture prison to be turned into place of healing](#)

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Welcome to the "Kurdistan in America" Podcast





## Season 2 Episode 7 - Interview with Mr. Rob Waller

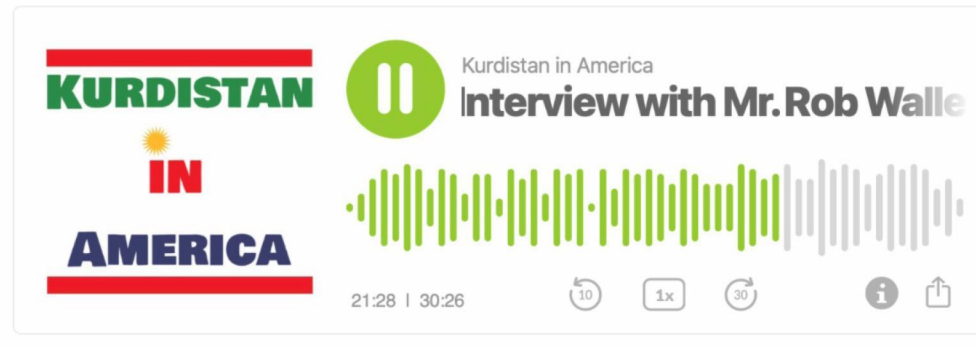
JULY 26, 2021

KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES

SEASON:

2

EPISODE: 7



This month, the Kurdistan in America podcast is honored to host Mr. Rob Waller as our guest. Mr. Waller was the US Consul General in Erbil for one year from July 2020, and has just completed his assignment in Kurdistan. He has previously served as a career member of the Senior Foreign Service of the United States in several capacities, including the Director of the Office of Iraq Affairs and as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Iraq and Iran at the State Department.

Mr. Waller discusses his key objectives and achievements as the US Consul General in Erbil and the challenges that he experienced during his tenure. He also shares his views on Erbil-Baghdad relations, the conflict between Turkey and the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), the Sinjar Agreement, and his personal experience in the Kurdistan Region and thoughts about the people of Kurdistan.

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### Commemorating the Genocide of the Barzanis



Tomorrow marks the 38th anniversary of the genocide of the Barzanis, in which thousands of men and boys from the Barzani tribe were systematically killed by the Ba'ath regime in Iraq. We honor those who were murdered and reflect on the suffering and resilience of those who survived.

On July 31, 1983, under the orders of Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi army raided numerous camps near Erbil and further north in Iraqi Kurdistan and abducted 8,000 Barzani men and boys, some as young as 10 years of age and elderly men of up to 80 years. Their mothers, wives, and daughters would never see them again.

The Barzani men and boys were taken to deserts in southern Iraq, executed and buried in mass graves. The remains of some were found in the deserts of the south after 2003 and transferred to the Kurdistan Region for proper burial, but the whereabouts of thousands of victims are still unknown.





The genocide of the Barzanis ultimately became a blueprint for Saddam Hussein's Anfal campaign five years later that led to the deaths of up to 182,000 Kurds who were killed by chemical weapons and massive operations of displacement and disappearance.

Today the sons and daughters of those victims are part of the revival of Kurdistan. Their success in education, economy, and society is testimony to the resilience of the people of Kurdistan.

We honor the memory of those laid to rest and all those still missing, and we salute the survivors for their resolute spirit.



Watch a documentary film 'All My Mothers' about the Barzani Genocide.



### The Tragedy of the Missing Barzanis

In late 1983, Saddam Hussein met Kurdish dignitaries in Erbil and suggested the missing 8,000 Barzanis, who had disappeared in July that year, had met a terrible end...

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**To:** farakrg@gmail.com  
**Date Sent:** Saturday, July 31, 2021 6:19:03 PM GMT-04:00  
**Date Received:** Saturday, July 31, 2021 6:19:04 PM GMT-04:00



**Kurdistan Regional Government  
Representation in the United States  
Washington D.C.**

## Welcome to our July 2021 Newsletter



### Introduction

The highlight of July 2021 was the fourth round of the US Iraq Strategic Dialogue and the meeting of Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa Kadhimi with US President Joe Biden.

Officials from the Presidency of the Kurdistan Region and the Kurdistan Regional Government took part in the Strategic Dialogue as part of the Iraq delegation led by Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein. The discussions covered energy efficiency, climate change, public health, higher education and culture, democracy and elections, and, of course, the security relationship.

Fawzi Hariri, Chief-of-Staff to the President of the Kurdistan Region, also took part in a bilateral meeting between Iraqi Foreign Minister Hussein and US

The need for US and Coalition support, in the form of training, advising, and sharing information, was highlighted this month following a terrorist attack by ISIS cells in Baghdad, which killed and injured dozens. Kurdish security forces foiled a plan by ISIS to launch attacks in Erbil ahead of the Eid Al-Adha holiday.

### Commemorating genocide

This week, we will be marking three mass atrocities that took place against different communities in Kurdistan and Iraq. We honor all the victims and offer our condolences and solidarity to their families and communities.

On July 31, 1983, the Baathist regime of Saddam Hussein singled out 8,000 boys and men from the Barzani clan, who were rounded up, killed, or made to disappear, simply because of their tribal and ethnic identity.

August 3 marks the seventh anniversary of ISIS's genocidal campaign against the Yazidis in Sinjar and Christians and others in Nineveh. The United States Department of State in 2016 recognized ISIS's acts as genocide, and in the past several weeks, the Dutch and Belgian parliaments have followed suit.

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Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Mr. Hariri described the strategic dialogue as 'pivotal to the future of Iraq. By working together, we can prevent terror from raising its head again.'

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It is crucial that we remember the tragedies that took place, that we honor those who were killed, and support those who survived so that all our society can thrive and be at peace.

### **Hawraman on World Heritage list**

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Representative to the United States  
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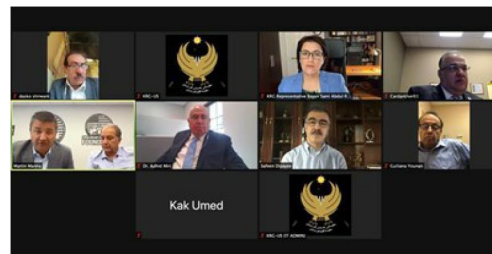
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## Season 2 Episode 7 - Interview with Mr. Rob Waller

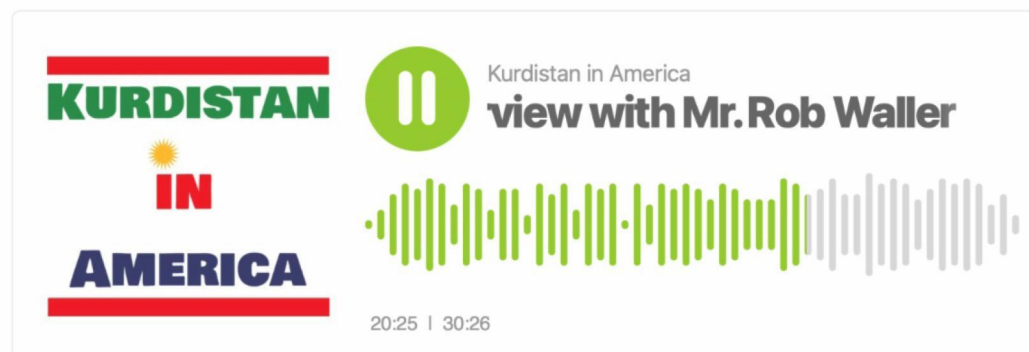
JULY 26, 2021

KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES

SEASON:

2

EPISODE: 7



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He has previously served as a career member of the Senior Foreign Service of the United States in several capacities, including the Director of the Office of Iraq Affairs and as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Iraq and Iran at the State Department.

Mr. Waller discusses his key objectives and achievements as the US Consul General in Erbil and the challenges that he experienced during his tenure. He also shares his views on Erbil-Baghdad relations, the conflict between Turkey and the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), the Sinjar Agreement, and his personal experience in the Kurdistan Region and thoughts about the people of Kurdistan.

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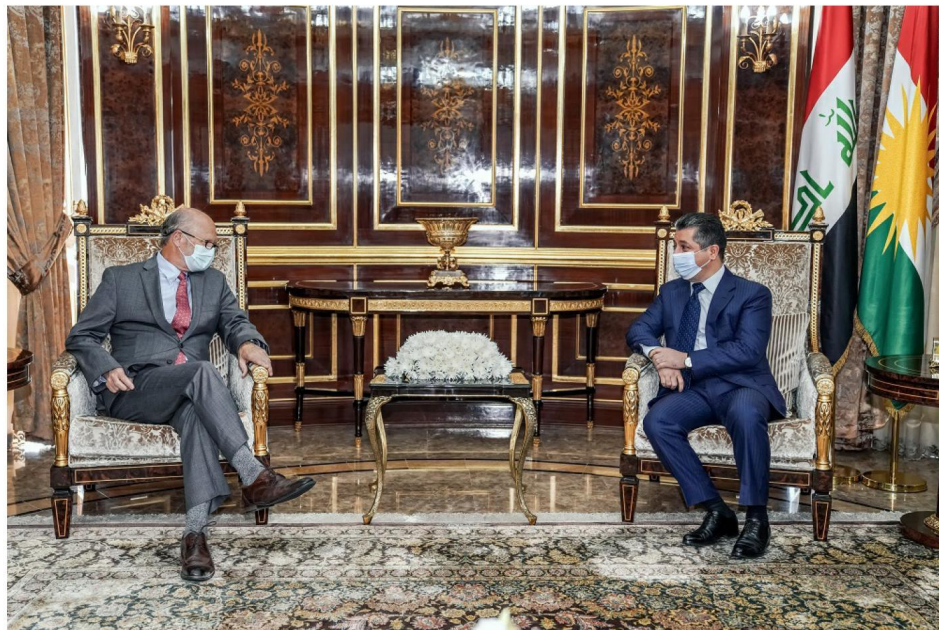




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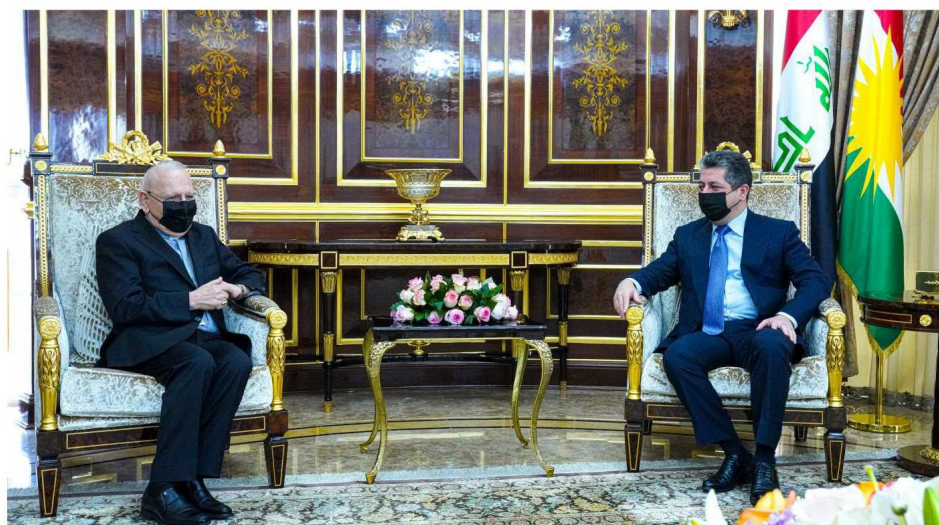
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### **PM Masrour Barzani meets with Samaritan's Purse Delegation**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Monday met with a delegation from the American charitable organization, Samaritan's Purse. Prime Minister Barzani thanked the organization for their...

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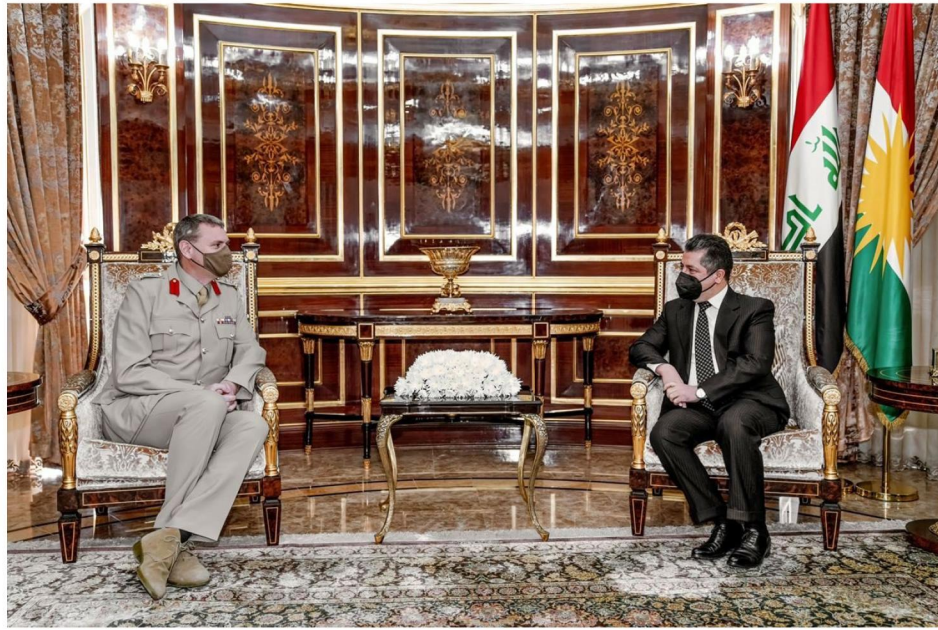




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Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Tuesday met with the deputy commanding general of the Combined Joint Task Force in Iraq and Syria, Brigadier Richard Bell.

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### **A speech by PM Masrour Barzani on salary payments**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani today announced that starting this month, government employee salaries will be paid in full and without any cutback.

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### **PM Masrour Barzani leads High Economic Council meeting**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Sunday led the High Economic Council's meeting on financial reform and quality of life in the Kurdistan Region. Prime Minister Barzani emphasized that ...

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### **DPM Talabani meets private sector stakeholders in Slemani**



Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani today held a meeting with private sector stakeholders in the Sulaymaniyah governorate to discuss the Kurdistan Regional Government's efforts to...

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#### **DPM Qubad Talabani discusses security integration with Mol**

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani, accompanied by Deputy Minister of Interior Major General Chato Salih, today met with stakeholders within the Ministry of Interior to explore ways...

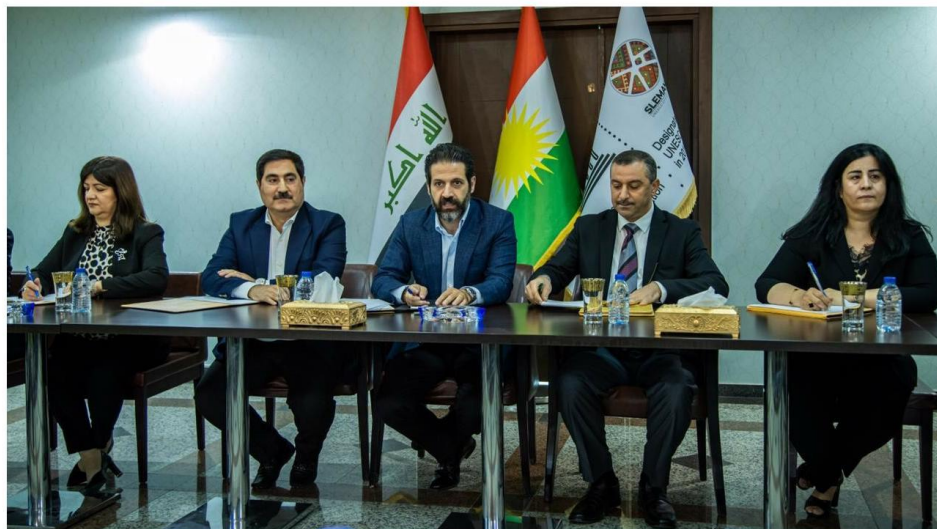
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#### **DPM Qubad Talabani appoints new head of the Zanyari Agency**

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani today announced the appointment of Azhi Amin as the new Director of the Zanyari Agency in Slemani province. Deputy Prime Minister Talabani welcomed ...

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#### **DPM Talabani holds round table with Slemani Governorate**

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani today met with the Governor and held a round table with all departments of the Sulaymanyah Governorate to discuss opportunities for enhanced...

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#### **Speaker Faiq welcomes new US Consul General in Erbil**

Kurdistan Parliament Speaker Dr. Rewaz Faiq on 27 July welcomed the new US Consul General in Kurdistan Region, Mr. Robert Palladino. Speaker Faiq congratulated Mr. Palladino on his new posting and wished him success. The...



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[www.parliament.krd](http://www.parliament.krd)



### **Speaker Faiq welcomes Chaldean Patriarch Sako**

Kurdistan Parliament Speaker Dr. Rewaz Faiq on 25 July welcomed HB Patriarch Raphael I Louis Sako, Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church in Babylon and Cardinal of Iraq, and his delegation.

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## Deputy Speaker welcomes Christian religious leaders

Kurdistan Parliament Deputy Speaker Dr. Hemin Hawrami on 7 July met with archbishops and bishops of Kurdistan and Iraq's Christian denominations. He welcomed Bashar Matti Warda, Chaldean Catholic Archbishop of Erbil; Nicodemus ...

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## Kurdistan in the Media



### US Ambassador to Iraq talks to Rudaw

US Ambassador to Iraq Matthew Tueller spoke with Rudaw's Roj Eli Zalla in Washington DC, discussing developments in the US mission in Iraq, the upcoming parliamentary elections, and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in the Kurdistan Region.



### Head of UNAMI discusses elections and security threats in Iraq with Rudaw

Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), recently spoke with Rudaw's Bestoon Khalid about Iraq's upcoming elections, the continuing threat of the Islamic State (ISIS), and Turkey's conflict with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).



### Najmaldin Karim Webinar Series: What does the US-Iraq strategic dialogue mean for Iraq, especially the Kurdistan Region?

In this series, a panel of experts, including the Kurdistan Regional Government Representative to the United States, Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman, shared their views on the US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue and its impact on Kurdistan and the rest of Iraq.

### Iraqi Kurds Keep Faith in U.S. Despite Drawdown

On the outskirts of this city, the capital of

### 'Kurdistan in America' named among top 20 gov't relations podcasts in 2021

Iraq's Kurdistan region, there is a sprawling gated community with wrought iron fences, manicured lawns...

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Welp Magazine has named a US-based podcast produced by the autonomous Kurdistan Region of Iraq as one of the 20 best government relations podcasts...

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### **ERC provides relief aid to people affected by fire at Yazidi Sharia Camp**

The Emirates Red Crescent (ERC) provided relief aid to people affected by the fire that erupted in the Sharia Refugee Camp in Dohuk, Kurdistan...

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### **Fair brings culture of Iranian Kurdistan to Duhok**

Entering the Iranian Kurdistan fair in Duhok, there's an immediate feeling of familiarity with the culture and craftsmanship on display.

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### **A one-man museum celebrates the region's Jewish history and ethnic diversity in Iraqi Kurdistan**

For more than 27 centuries, Jews lived in the region around Erbil, the capital of Iraq's semi-independent Kurdish Regional Government.

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### **Outgoing KCC director: attacks won't break 30-year US-Kurdistan relationship**

Attacks by militia groups aimed at pressuring Erbil won't break the relationship between the United States and the Kurdistan Region, Colonel David

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### **Iraqi Kurdistan: The Autonomous Part Of Iraq That Is Actually Safe To Visit**

Iraq isn't on many people's travel radar. Most folks are likely considering it to be unstable and unsafe. It is true that the last few decades have been very bad...

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### **KRG in talks with German company for Kurdish railway**

Erbil is in ongoing discussions with international companies on plans to build railway infrastructure across the Kurdistan Region, a top minister told...

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### **Hikers enjoy breathtaking Kurdistan landscapes while avoiding landmines, border attacks**

It isn't wild animals nor natural disasters that Kurdish hikers fear most, it is the unexpected bombardment by two of Kurdistan's neighboring nations and

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### **Kurdistan's Hawraman cultural landscape gains place on UNESCO World Heritage List**

The Hawraman/Uramanat cultural landscape site is located on the slopes of Sarvabad county and shared between the Kurdistan and Kermanshah...

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### KRG hands powers to Duhok, Erbil towns in decentralization move

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) on Wednesday gave two towns in Erbil and Duhok provinces administrative powers in a decentralization move...

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### Conservationist Fights for Persian Leopards in Iraqi Kurdistan

After the Iran–Iraq War (1980–1988), which severely degraded Iraqi nature, Persian leopards (*Panthera pardus tulliana*) were thought to be locally...

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### New monument honors Barzan genocide victims

On July 31, 1983, an estimated 8,000 members of the Barzani tribe were rounded up, abducted from their homes in the Zagros mountains...

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### Poor security, services in Sinjar force 95 Yezidi families to return to Kurdistan Region camps

Nearly 100 Yezidi (Ezidi) families that fled the disputed Iraqi district of Sinjar (Shingal) to escape ISIS seven years

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### Commemorating the Genocide of the Barzanis



Tomorrow marks the 38th anniversary of the genocide of the Barzanis, in which thousands of men and boys from the Barzani tribe were systematically killed by the Ba'ath regime in Iraq. We honor those who were murdered and reflect on the suffering and resilience of those who survived.

On July 31, 1983, under the orders of Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi army raided numerous camps near Erbil and further north in Iraqi Kurdistan and abducted 8,000 Barzani men and boys, some as young as 10 years of age and elderly men of up to 80 years. Their mothers, wives, and daughters would never see them again.

The Barzani men and boys were taken to deserts in southern Iraq, executed and buried in mass graves. The remains of some were found in the deserts of the south after 2003 and transferred to the Kurdistan Region for proper burial, but the whereabouts of thousands of victims are still unknown.



The genocide of the Barzanis ultimately became a blueprint for Saddam Hussein's Anfal campaign five years later that led to the deaths of up to 182,000 Kurds who were killed by chemical weapons and massive operations of displacement and disappearance.

Today the sons and daughters of those victims are part of the revival of Kurdistan. Their success in education, economy, and society is testimony to the resilience of the people of Kurdistan.

We honor the memory of those laid to rest and all those still missing, and we salute the survivors for their resolute spirit.





Watch a documentary film 'All My Mothers' about the Barzani Genocide.



### The Tragedy of the Missing Barzanis

In late 1983, Saddam Hussein met Kurdish dignitaries in Erbil and suggested the missing 8,000 Barzanis, who had disappeared in July that year, had met a terrible end...

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**Date Received:** Monday, August 2, 2021 11:16:47 AM GMT-04:00



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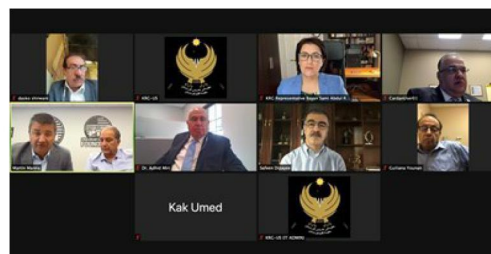
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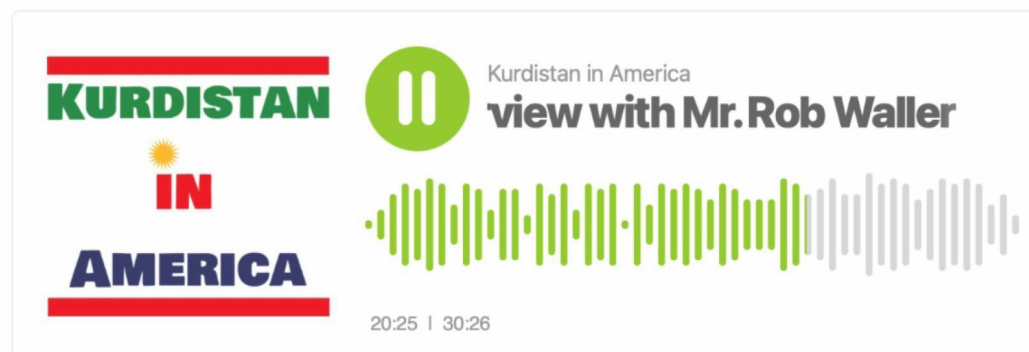
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KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES

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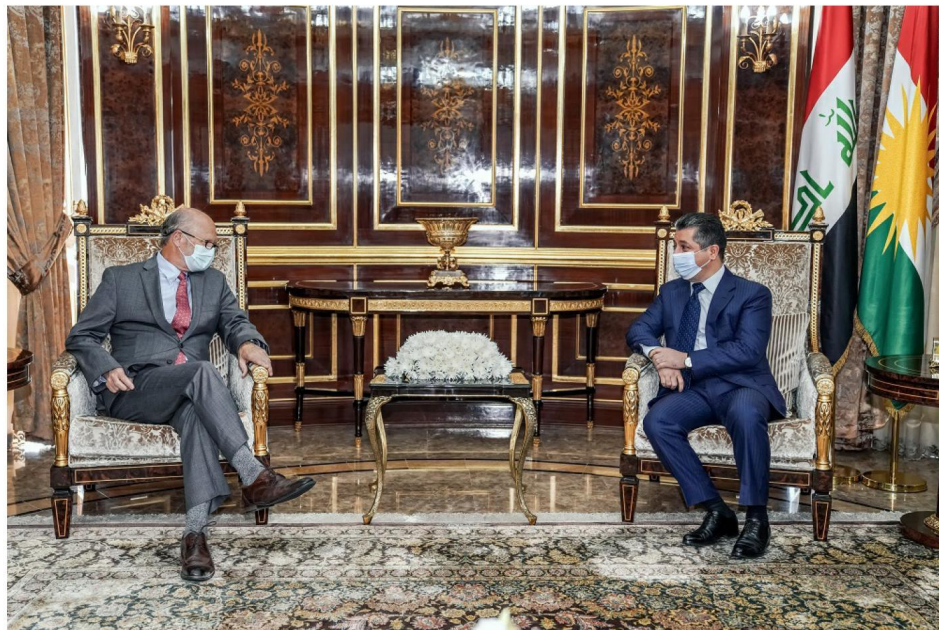




### **PM Masrour Barzani meets with new US Consul General in Erbil**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Sunday met with the new US Consul General to Erbil, Robert J. Palladino. Prime Minister Barzani congratulated the consul general, and expressed the...

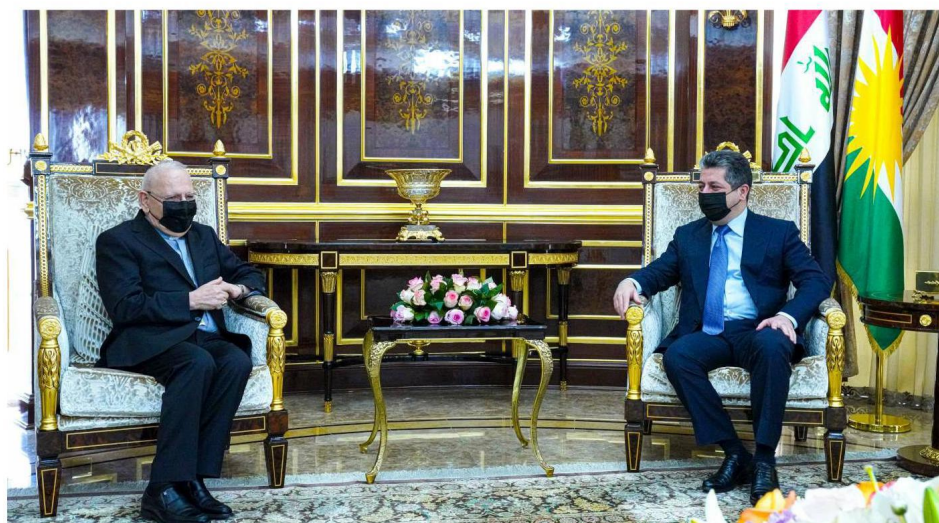
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### **PM Masrour Barzani meets with Samaritan's Purse Delegation**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Monday met with a delegation from the American charitable organization, Samaritan's Purse. Prime Minister Barzani thanked the organization for their...

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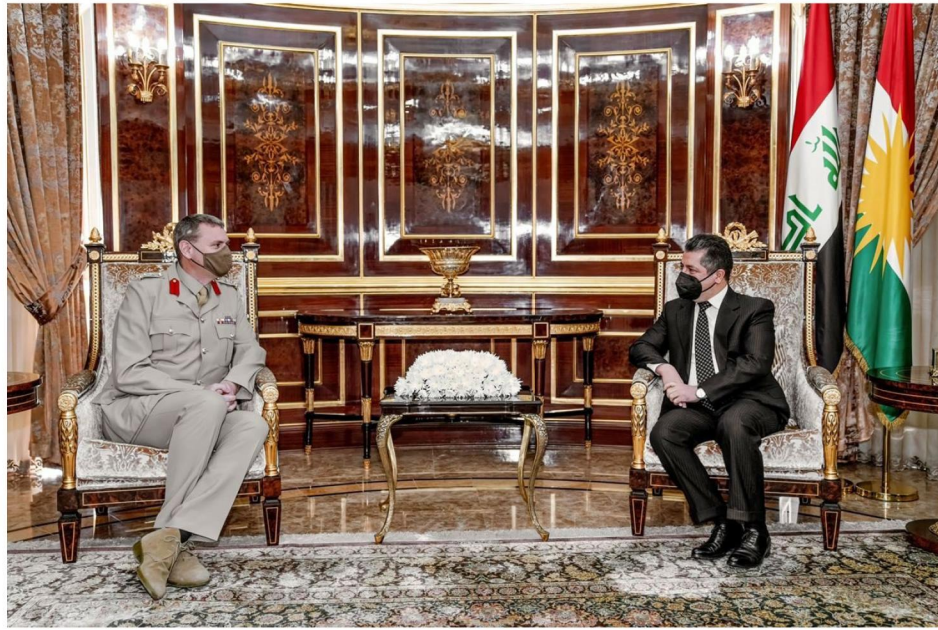




### **PM Masrour Barzani meets with head of Chaldean Church**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Saturday met with Cardinal Louis Raphaël I Sako, Patriarch of Babylon of the Chaldeans and head of the Chaldean Catholic Church. Prime Minister...

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### **PM Masrour Barzani meets with Global Coalition delegation**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Tuesday met with the deputy commanding general of the Combined Joint Task Force in Iraq and Syria, Brigadier Richard Bell.

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### **A speech by PM Masrour Barzani on salary payments**



Prime Minister Masrour Barzani today announced that starting this month, government employee salaries will be paid in full and without any cutback.

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#### **PM Masrour Barzani leads High Economic Council meeting**

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani on Sunday led the High Economic Council's meeting on financial reform and quality of life in the Kurdistan Region. Prime Minister Barzani emphasized that ...

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#### **DPM Talabani meets private sector stakeholders in Slemani**

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani today held a meeting with private sector stakeholders in the Sulaymaniyah governorate to discuss the Kurdistan Regional Government's efforts to...

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#### **DPM Qubad Talabani discusses security integration with Mol**

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani, accompanied by Deputy Minister of Interior Major General Chato Salih, today met with stakeholders within the Ministry of Interior to explore ways...

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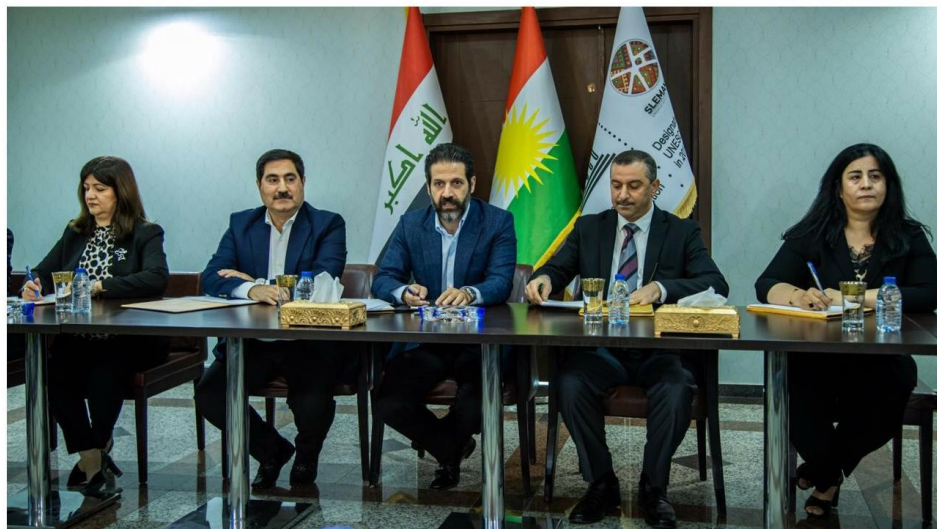


#### **DPM Qubad Talabani appoints new head of the Zanyari Agency**



Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani today announced the appointment of Azhi Amin as the new Director of the Zanyari Agency in Slemani province. Deputy Prime Minister Talabani welcomed ...

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#### **DPM Talabani holds round table with Slemani Governorate**

Deputy Prime Minister Qubad Talabani today met with the Governor and held a round table with all departments of the Sulaymanyah Governorate to discuss opportunities for enhanced...

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#### **Speaker Faiq welcomes new US Consul General in Erbil**

Kurdistan Parliament Speaker Dr. Rewaz Faiq on 27 July welcomed the new US Consul General in Kurdistan Region, Mr. Robert Palladino. Speaker Faiq congratulated Mr. Palladino on his new posting and wished him success. The...



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[www.parliament.krd](http://www.parliament.krd)



### **Speaker Faiq welcomes Chaldean Patriarch Sako**

Kurdistan Parliament Speaker Dr. Rewaz Faiq on 25 July welcomed HB Patriarch Raphael I Louis Sako, Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church in Babylon and Cardinal of Iraq, and his delegation.

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[www.parliament.krd](http://www.parliament.krd)



## Deputy Speaker welcomes Christian religious leaders

Kurdistan Parliament Deputy Speaker Dr. Hemin Hawrami on 7 July met with archbishops and bishops of Kurdistan and Iraq's Christian denominations. He welcomed Bashar Matti Warda, Chaldean Catholic Archbishop of Erbil; Nicodemus ...

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## Kurdistan in the Media



### US Ambassador to Iraq talks to Rudaw

US Ambassador to Iraq Matthew Tueller spoke with Rudaw's Roj Eli Zalla in Washington DC, discussing developments in the US mission in Iraq, the upcoming parliamentary elections, and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in the Kurdistan Region.



### Head of UNAMI discusses elections and security threats in Iraq with Rudaw

Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), recently spoke with Rudaw's Bestoon Khalid about Iraq's upcoming elections, the continuing threat of the Islamic State (ISIS), and Turkey's conflict with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).



### Najmaldin Karim Webinar Series: What does the US-Iraq strategic dialogue mean for Iraq, especially the Kurdistan Region?

In this series, a panel of experts, including the Kurdistan Regional Government Representative to the United States, Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman, shared their views on the US-Iraq Strategic Dialogue and its impact on Kurdistan and the rest of Iraq.

### Iraqi Kurds Keep Faith in U.S. Despite Drawdown

On the outskirts of this city, the capital of

### 'Kurdistan in America' named among top 20 gov't relations podcasts in 2021



Iraq's Kurdistan region, there is a sprawling gated community with wrought iron fences, manicured lawns...

[Read more](#)

Welp Magazine has named a US-based podcast produced by the autonomous Kurdistan Region of Iraq as one of the 20 best government relations podcasts...

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### **ERC provides relief aid to people affected by fire at Yazidi Sharia Camp**

The Emirates Red Crescent (ERC) provided relief aid to people affected by the fire that erupted in the Sharia Refugee Camp in Dohuk, Kurdistan...

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### **Fair brings culture of Iranian Kurdistan to Duhok**

Entering the Iranian Kurdistan fair in Duhok, there's an immediate feeling of familiarity with the culture and craftsmanship on display.

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### **A one-man museum celebrates the region's Jewish history and ethnic diversity in Iraqi Kurdistan**

For more than 27 centuries, Jews lived in the region around Erbil, the capital of Iraq's semi-independent Kurdish Regional Government.

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### **Outgoing KCC director: attacks won't break 30-year US-Kurdistan relationship**

Attacks by militia groups aimed at pressuring Erbil won't break the relationship between the United States and the Kurdistan Region, Colonel David

[Read more](#)

### **Iraqi Kurdistan: The Autonomous Part Of Iraq That Is Actually Safe To Visit**

Iraq isn't on many people's travel radar. Most folks are likely considering it to be unstable and unsafe. It is true that the last few decades have been very bad...

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### **KRG in talks with German company for Kurdish railway**

Erbil is in ongoing discussions with international companies on plans to build railway infrastructure across the Kurdistan Region, a top minister told...

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### **Hikers enjoy breathtaking Kurdistan landscapes while avoiding landmines, border attacks**

It isn't wild animals nor natural disasters that Kurdish hikers fear most, it is the unexpected bombardment by two of Kurdistan's neighboring nations and

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### **Kurdistan's Hawraman cultural landscape gains place on UNESCO World Heritage List**

The Hawraman/Uramanat cultural landscape site is located on the slopes of Sarvabad county and shared between the Kurdistan and Kermanshah...

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### KRG hands powers to Duhok, Erbil towns in decentralization move

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) on Wednesday gave two towns in Erbil and Duhok provinces administrative powers in a decentralization move...

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### New monument honors Barzan genocide victims

On July 31, 1983, an estimated 8,000 members of the Barzani tribe were rounded up, abducted from their homes in the Zagros mountains...

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### Conservationist Fights for Persian Leopards in Iraqi Kurdistan

After the Iran–Iraq War (1980–1988), which severely degraded Iraqi nature, Persian leopards (*Panthera pardus tulliana*) were thought to be locally...

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### Poor security, services in Sinjar force 95 Yezidi families to return to Kurdistan Region camps

Nearly 100 Yezidi (Ezidi) families that fled the disputed Iraqi district of Sinjar (Shingal) to escape ISIS seven years

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**For inquiries, please contact Delovan Barwari, the Director of Public and Humanitarian Affairs, at: [delovan.barwari@us.gov.krd](mailto:delovan.barwari@us.gov.krd)**

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### Commemorating the Yazidi Genocide



In the summer of 2014, ISIS terrorists tore across Iraq, committing genocide, kidnapping, raping, and destroying churches, shrines, and cultural heritage sites. Anyone who did not follow their interpretation of Islam or stood against their so-called caliphate was executed, abducted, or enslaved. The victims were many, but most notably, the Yazidis and Christians.

Tomorrow marks the seventh anniversary of ISIS's genocide against the Yazidis, where more than 5,500 Yazidis were killed, and about 6,300 people, mostly women and girls, were systematically forced into slavery—about 3,000 of whom are still missing. Additionally, more than 90 percent of the estimated 360,000 Yazidis living in Sinjar and its surrounding areas have been displaced since the terrorist organization unleashed its fighters on the Yazidi community. Close to 220,000 Yazidis remain in camps in the Kurdistan Region.



We bow our heads in salute to the victims of this genocide and pay tribute to the survivors of ISIS's brutal campaign of killing and destruction. We honor all who remain missing and pray for their safe return to the embrace of their families.

We stand in solidarity with our Yazidi brothers and sisters and continue to support their call for justice and accountability.



**Watch the PBS NewsHour: Yazidis struggle to rebuild their lives despite ISIS retreat. Aired: 07/17/21**

Seven years ago, a brutal attack by ISIS forced hundreds of thousands of Yazidis to flee their homes in northern Iraq. Many were eventually imprisoned, killed or sold into slavery. Now, despite ISIS's retreat, Yazidi survivors say little has changed for them as they struggle to rebuild their lives. Special Correspondent Leila Molana-Allen reports.





### Barakat Ali: A musician from the plains of Khana Soor

See the story of Barakat Ali, a Yazidi who fled ISIS' genocide with his wife and two daughters. In this video by Music In Exile, he sings a lament to the lost children of Sinjar.

[Read more](#)

[musicinexile.org](http://musicinexile.org)



Watch the documentary, I Was A Yazidi Slave, depicting the Story of Shirin and Lewiza, two Yazidi women captured by ISIS. They escape to Germany thanks to the intervention of Dr. Jan Kizilhan, an expert on trauma.

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### Commemorating the Yazidi Genocide



In the summer of 2014, ISIS terrorists tore across Iraq, committing genocide, kidnapping, raping, and destroying churches, shrines, and cultural heritage sites. Anyone who did not follow their interpretation of Islam or stood against their so-called caliphate was executed, abducted, or enslaved. The victims were many, but most notably, the Yazidis and Christians.

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